

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

BEMA Electronics Inc

Corporation for Manufacturing Excellence (Manex)

Lean Provides The Roadmap For Bema Electronics' Success

Client Profile:

Bema Electronics, established in March 2000 in Fremont, California, offers the most advanced techniques in surface mount technology, ball-grid array placement, full systems integration, and through-hole printed circuit board assembly to small and mid-sized leaders in the telecommunications, medical, fiber optics, and broadcasting sectors. Bema Electronics employs less than 100 people.

Situation:

Bema Electronics wanted to improve its competitive position in the industry by gaining the recognition of the IPC trade association. Since 1957, IPC has been guiding the electronic interconnection industry. IPC-A-610-C Acceptability of Electronic Assemblies is the most widely used standard published by IPC for electronic assemblies. However, Bema Electronics needed to implement manufacturing technology training, build cross-functional work teams, and improve its production quality and efficiencies before it could meet IPC standards. The company contacted the Corporation for Manufacturing Excellence (Manex), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

Manex, working closely with Bema Electronics and the California Employment Training Panel, developed a training program that provided the necessary technical skills to Bema's employees. Over a period of ten weeks, 33 production, technical, engineering, management, and administration employees attended 60 hours of technical training. The training format included lectures, videos, and hands-on lab work with homework assignments that covered the basic principles in IPC and Expandable Software.

Results:

Increased productivity by 25 percent.

Reduced lead time by 20 percent.

Increased product quality by 40 percent.

Strengthened company-wide communication skills.

Improved employee work performance across different work roles.

Boosted company loyalty by offering career path opportunities, supplemental training, and promotions.

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Testimonial:

"Communication, guidance, and knowledge from the Corporation for Manufacturing Excellence team was key to the success of our program."

Helen Kwong, President